Summaries of FCT Projects Selected by OSD
for FY 2001 Out-of-Cycle Funding

Driver's Vision Enhancer – Canada, United Kingdom – Army. This project will test and qualify thermal imaging driving systems for integration into the Army's Driver's Vision Enhancer Program. Two candidates, manufactured by Thales (Thomson-CSF) of Canada and BAE Systems of the United Kingdom have been proposed for evaluation. The vision enhancer devices are critical during combat operations, allowing operators of wheeled and track vehicles to see in dark and obscured conditions.

Expeditionary Airfield Light-Duty Mat System – France – Navy/USMC. The project will evaluate a woven polyester mat manufactured by Deschamps of France to replace the aluminum surface material currently used for expeditionary missions requiring a stable airfield surface for Vertical Take-Off and Landing operations of rotary-wing and tilt-rotor aircraft.

Floating Smoke Pot Components – Germany – Navy/USMC. This FCT project will test an environmentally safe, non-toxic, non-carcinogenic, smoke-producing filler in a floating smoke pot configuration for use during low-light battlefield and training situations. The floating smoke pot is designed to screen personnel and equipment on the battlefield, both land and sea. The current U.S. system, the K867, contains carcinogenic filler and is thereby unsatisfactory for use in training. The candidate filler produced by Comet Pyrotechnik of Germany is fielded in smoke pots in Germany, Belgium, France, Norway, and Poland.

Multi-Bandwidth Submarine Antenna – United Kingdom – Navy/USMC. This project will evaluate the ability of a Thomson Marconi antenna to enhance UHF Military Satellite Communications (MILSATCOM) performance of the OE-538 Multifunction Communications Mast used on all U.S. submarines. The antenna system provides Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) and Global Positioning System (GPS) as well as L-Band for mobile subscriber service communications and wireless networking.

Muzzle Breaks/Suppressors – Switzerland – USSOCOM. U.S. Special Operations Command users have a mission requirement for a quick attach suppressor/muzzle break for the M-4 carbine that will decrease flash and sound, while decreasing the probability of detection of the shooter's location by enemy forces when the weapon is fired. This project will be a comparative test of candidate items manufactured by Brugger and Thomet Feinmechanik of Switzerland, and U.S. candidate muzzle break/suppressors to satisfy the U.S. Special Operations Command requirement.

Tactical Geographic Information System (Maria) – Norway – Navy/USMC. This project will evaluate a software-based command and control system (Teleplan of Norway) that provides superior battlespace awareness through the rapid display of geographic, imagery, and positional information on friendly, neutral, and enemy units. The system provides advanced planning and decision aids such as communication and emitter propagation analysis tools. The project has the added benefit of increasing interoperability with U.S. allies. The objective is to integrate Maria into the Navy's Global Command and Control System-Maritime.